

County to offer free tours of Juvenile Hall and Court

Parents can give their children a glimpse of what juvenile justice is like tomorrow when county officials offer free tours of Juvenile Hall and Juvenile Court in Kearny Mesa.

County officials expect nearly 3,000 people to visit the court and juvenile jail complex at 801 Meadow Lark Drive during the open house, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m.

The idea is to keep children from getting in trouble by showing them and their parents what happens when they run afoul of the law and what services are available to help them avoid it, Chief Probation Officer Mack Jenkins said.

In fiscal 2007-08, about 4,835 children spent at least a day behind bars at Juvenile Hall, with an average of 309 each day, Jenkins said. -R.H.

Staff writers Alexa Capeloto, Susan Shroder, Mark Arner, Ray Huard, Steve Schmidt and Steve Liewer contributed to this report.